

Student Name: Godfrey Osawaru Osawaru

Student Number: 2122802

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Leader: Dr Eleni Koutsogeorgou-Andreou

Assignment Title: Stroke Care in the United Kingdom
During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systematic Review

Topic: Stroke Care in the United Kingdom During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systematic Review

Aim and Objectives

The aim of this systematic literature review is to critically analyze and synthesize empirical and primary research studies concerning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on stroke care in the United Kingdom.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Explore the challenges faced by stroke care services during the pandemic.
2. Examine the adaptations made by stroke care providers to cope with the pandemic's constraints.
3. Assess the outcomes and effectiveness of stroke care services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Identify gaps in the literature and provide recommendations for future research, policy, and practice.

Data Collection and Analysis Methods

- Data collection was performed using data extraction form to ensure consistency and comprehensiveness.
- The methodology employed in this systematic literature review was Thematic Synthesis.

Articles Included in the Systematic Literature Review

- Collateral effect of COVID-19 on stroke evaluation in the United Kingdom by Kansagra et al. (2020).
- Acute stroke in times of the COVID-19 pandemic by Hoyer et al. (2020).
- Characteristics and outcomes in patients with COVID-19 and acute ischemic stroke: The global COVID-19 stroke registry by Ntaios et al. (2020).
- Stroke care during COVID-19: A case series of five patients by Siepmann et al. (2020).
- Impact of COVID-19 on stroke services in the UK by Ward et al. (2020).
- Mechanical thrombectomy for acute ischaemic stroke during the COVID-19 pandemic: changes to UK practice and lessons learned by McConachie et al. (2020).
- Impact of COVID-19 on stroke admissions, treatments, and outcomes at a comprehensive stroke centre in the United Kingdom by Padmanabhan et al. (2021).

Key Findings and Themes of the Lit. Review

- Challenges in Stroke Care During the Pandemic:
 - Reduced Access to Stroke Units
 - Delays in Treatment Initiation
 - Decreased Stroke Admissions
 - Changes in Stroke Presentation Patterns
- Adaptations in Stroke Care Services
 - Telemedicine and Telehealth Solutions
 - Virtual Education and Training
 - Remote Monitoring and Home-based Rehabilitation
- Outcomes and Effectiveness of Stroke Care During the Pandemic
 - Delayed Presentation and Treatment
 - Effectiveness of Telemedicine
 - Continuity of Care

Strengths of the Systematic Literature Review

- Comprehensive Literature Coverage (Higgins & Green, 2011)
- Rigorous Methodology (Higgins & Green, 2011)
- Objective Analysis (Egger et al., 2001)
- Generalizability (Higgins & Green, 2011)
- Identifying Trends and Patterns (Thomas & Harden, 2008)

Limitations of the Systematic Literature Review

- Publication Bias (Sterne et al., 2011)
- Quality of Included Studies (Egger et al., 2001)
- Time and Resource Intensive (Higgins et al., 2019)
- Heterogeneity of Studies (Higgins & Green, 2011)
- Risk of Bias (Higgins & Green, 2011)
- Interpretation Challenges (Popay et al., 2006)

Recommendations

- Public Health Campaigns
- Telemedicine Integration
- Healthcare Resilience
- Data Collection and Surveillance
- Patient-Centered Care

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